MONTEREY NEWS

March 2005
VOLUME XXXV · Number 3

The Town

Town Operations

The first Select Board meeting in February began with an intense discussion of the February 2nd accident on Route 23 and Fairview Road. Larry Klein, a Fairview Road resident, brought pictures of the accident's aftermath to the meeting and voiced his continued concern about truck use of Fairview Road.

Shortly after the accident, Chief of Police Gareth Backhaus called the State Police Truck Team, the only agency in the commonwealth that has the authority to issue an official report on a truck accident, to investigate the situation. And because the truck landed so close to a well and by a spring, Backhaus also called in the Department of Environmental Protection, which required the truck's owner, Nolan Trucking and Excavating of West Stockbridge, to bring in an engineer to test the soil. The Truck Team determined that faulty front brakes were the issue. The truck was impounded, and the driver fired after the accident, allegedly for disregarding the truck owner's warning not to use Fairview Road. The guardrail damaged in the accident was replaced the following day.

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes and Backhaus were asked about

Courtesy Gould Farm

Maple sugaring time at Gould Farm

posting "No Through Trucks" signs on Fairview Road and imposing weight limitations. Select Board member Michele Miller talked with Highway District #1 Director Ross Dindio about the weight limitation on the Beartown Mountain Road bridge, built in 1938. She learned that the original weight limit was posted in 1982, and was reposted in 2004 after the removal of the sign. Fire trucks and other town trucks can apply for exemptions to the weight limitations for occasional use. Dindio said that "No Through Trucks" signs can be placed on Fairview Road to reduce the danger to drivers. Beartown Mountain Road and its bridge are not state owned, but they are regulated by the state.

Beartown Mountain Road residents Monica Webb and Hillel Maximon reported their concerns about the safety of their section of the road to the Select Board. They brought photographs of the road to the meeting so Select Board members could see where the road's most serious ruts are. Maximon said that there are only six households on their section of the road, and none is interested in having the road paved. Webb and Maximon said that Fire Chief Ray Tryon had told them that a fire truck would not be able to maneuver that section during the mud season. At a later Select Board meeting Tryon stated that he had never had such a conversation with them, adding that all roads in Monterey can accommodate fire trucks.

Select Board Chairman Jon Sylbert pointed out that the problems confronting Beartown Mountain Road residents are the inevitable result of people settling on a dirt road. "It is the nature of dirt roads to get muddy." Nonetheless, the residents are very concerned about getting the road in a condition that will not present safety hazards. The Select Board agreed to talk to Forbes about the cost to improve the 50-foot section that is the most problematic.

Forbes reported that Bally Gally, the second house on the McLaughlin-Wilson property, needs a new furnace and light fixtures, which can be paid for from an outstanding grant. Once the repairs are made, Bally Gally will be rented out as Monterey's first affordable housing. The Select Board asked Forbes to set a rental price after research into the market rate for such a house.

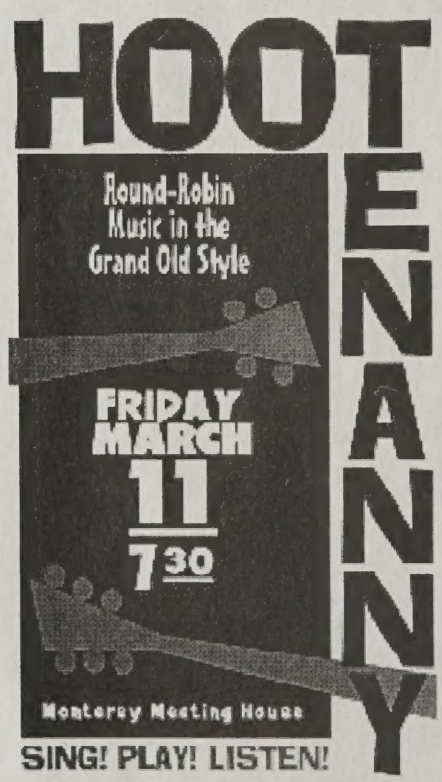
Building Commissioner

Building Commissioner Don Torrico introduced subinspectors Bob Krupski (gas and plumbing) and Nick Fredsall (electric). Torrico met with the subinspectors before the meeting to explain the town's new building permit, and the necessity for an inspection at the rough and the finish levels for each job. There may be additional inspections if problems arise. Torrico requested that the subinspectors have identification cards, which were made on the spot with Select Board member Michele Miller's new digital camera.

Krupski and Fredsall raised the issue of remuneration for mileage and continuing education. Members of the Select Board questioned whether the town should pay for 12 hours of continuing education each year for part-time employees; moreover, it was pointed out that education is a business expense, and thus can be used as deduction. A discussion ensued regarding what constitutes a reasonable request for inspectors' compensation. The "you get what you pay for" rationale was juxtaposed with the "integrity of fiscal oversight." It was agreed that Monterey provides a service for people in town with its inspection process, and there have been no complaints about the inspections.

The minimum permit fee for a window replacement is $55, with $20 for the filing fee and $35 for the permit itself. Torrico was asked to come up with a policy regarding the reduction of a building permit fee to $35 for projects under $1,000.

Torrico announced that the Board of Health may do a site visit to Gould Farm with regard to the variance from the state



The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

HEBERT REALTY INC.

Distinctive country homes, estates, lake and land in the Southern Berkshires since 1955. We offer you the best in personalized professional service. Call me when you're thinking about buying or selling. I can help you plan your future with experience.

LINDA RABINER HEBERT
Licensed Broker
CBR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES
6 Tyringham Rd., P.O Box 924
Monterey, MA 01245

Office (413) 528-3440
Fax (413) 528-1588
E-mail: hebertrlty@aol.com
website: HebertRealty.com

for its new building. As Torrico noted, without the variance, both Gould Farm and its architect would have been liable for debts arising from an accident. The variance, thus, is protection for the farm.

The Select Board encouraged Torrico to be specific about his cost projections for the new budget, and to detail what income is derived from permits. Torrico said that currently he is unable to break his budget down into line items because such matters as phone bills, office supplies, and postage are lumped together with other departments. It was noted that the job of the Building Commissioner will be salaried as of July 1.

Two building permit applications were filed early February. William J. Gould & Associates applied for a permit to install solar panels at 100 Gould Road, and Karl Finger applied for a permit for an addition to his property at 30 Mt. Laurel Way.

The zoning bylaw regarding nonconforming property use, enacted in 1974, is not as well written or as clear as it should be. Among its unanswered questions is what constitutes nonconforming property use. The Building Commissioner has the right to determine if a nonconforming use is being increased, and if so to send the application to the ZBA. There is a body of case law on this subject, and the commissioner should consult with Town Counsel when appropriate.

Planning Board

At 10:30 a.m. on February 7, Sylbert announced that the scheduled meeting of the Select Board and the Planning Board had failed to materialize since no members of the Planning Board showed up. "The responsibilities of the Planning Board are very important to the quality of life in Monterey," averred Sylbert, as he announced that the Select Board would move forward on the appointment of the seventh member of the board.

Kathryn Roberts

Roberts Woods Farm

Miscellaneous

Chief Backhaus will post a 25-mile-per-hour sign on Fairview Road. He reported two abandoned 911 calls, explaining that even abandoned calls require an official response. During the first two weeks of February, there were two false alarms.

Fire Chief Ray Tryon announced that the Fire Department is applying for a $15,000 grant from the commonwealth that includes the purchase of a thermal imager. No cost to the town will be involved with this grant.

Finance Committee Chairman Stan Ross announced that the committee's target is to have all budgets in and reviewed by the end of February. As preliminary talks about the forthcoming budget begin, the Select Board is considering better coordination of Town Hall's communications. Sylbert is in favor of a comprehensive communications program that would oversee telephones, computers, faxes, printers, backup, and the myriad other devices needed for entry into the "information society." In line with this approach, questions were asked about a telephone system that would identify the source for every call made, which would improve accounting.

Chuck Mielke introduced himself to the Select Board, and indicated his interest in being appointed as the next School District Committee Representative from Monterey.

— Laurily K. Epstein

Curtin Roofing/Carpentry

Certification #1850
Fully Licenced & Insured

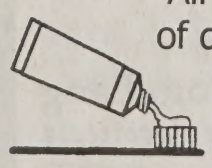
Matthew A. Curtin, Owner

62 Main Road
Tyringham, MA 01264
Tel. 413-243-4577
or 243-2124
FAX 413-243-0822

Bird Incorporated ROOFING PROFESSIONAL

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist

All phases of dentistry



528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

All Boards Meeting

Finance Committee members Stan Ross, Debra Mielke, and Dan Moriarty chaired the February 14th quarterly All Boards public meeting. In his opening comments, Chairman Ross said that the Finance Committee has to prepare an understandable budget with good information. "Part of our responsibility is to translate the information we receive so everyone can understand it," said Ross. The Finance Committee emphasized the importance of community attendance at the information meeting. There was widespread agreement with Town Treasurer Pat Mielke's suggestion that having the informational meeting on a Saturday morning may increase attendance.

The committee hopes to get the proposed budget distributed to town residents two weeks before the information meeting. To that end, the Finance Committee will publish the budget it has approved in accessible places where town citizens can see and digest it. Conservation Commission chairman Chris Blair suggested that the information be posted on the town website, a procedure that costs little and provides instant distribution.

In establishing the budget process and the calendar timetable, the Finance Committee issues budget requests to every commission and board, and lists their current fiscal year budget and what they have spent for the first six months of the fiscal year (through December 31, 2004). Budget requests that are higher or lower than the current year must be accompanied by a detailed explanation for the change.

The final column in this year's budget proposal will indicate whether the FC approves or disapproves of each item, a presentation style that was dropped some years ago. Ross believes that the committee's role as financial watchdog requires this disclosure.

School District Issues, Budget

Ross said he is concerned that the new budget for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District is too light. The proposed school expenditures total over $13 million, with income from the state, real estate taxes, and the education and development fund. In the new budget, $350,000 is being moved from the education and development fund to keep real estate taxes from going up. This withdrawal follows the $200,000 withdrawn from the fund last year, leaving it seriously depleted. Ross pointed out that lowering the level of the education and development fund cannot continue much longer because it will simply run out of money. The net result is that the school district is simply delaying the hard questions that have to be addressed.

School Superintendent Valerie Spriggs is aware of Monterey's concerns, and will be visiting the town to answer questions about the budget. Spriggs is sending suggestions to each town so it can write letters to the Governor requesting a large allocation of money for the schools. For example, the state is continuing to decrease busing funds, which in turn restricts programs for Monterey students. The school district should be getting $1,000,000 in Chapter 71 money (school transportation), but is receiving only $300,000.

Ross also emphasized his concern about the small size of the school board's stabilization fund. Currently the fund has $34,000, and only $25,000 is allocated for next year. With the likelihood of a $1 million expense for a new roof for the high school, the stabilization fund should be more robust.

Monterey's share of this year's school budget is $663,000, compared to $676,000 in the proposed school budget for next year. There is an additional increase of $13,000 (from $187,000 to $200,000) in Monterey's share of the capital budget, a change due to the acceleration of mortgage payments after last year's refinancing.

Ross and Select Board Chairman Jon Sylbert reported that there is considerable consternation about the loss of 100 children in the school district, a reduction that may lead to the elimination of five positions. There are two very different views about how to handle such a loss of

"The best little Camp in the Berkshires"
Since 1922
Camp Half Moon for Boys & Girls
Creating memories that last a lifetime...
www.camphalfmoon.com
Day & Sleepover Programs
Ages 4 to 15
Video & Brochure on Request
P.O. Box 188, Great Barrington, MA 01230
Tel: (413) 528-0940 Fax: (413) 528-0941

students. One is that it should be accompanied by a comparable reduction in staff; the other view is that a more aggressive school budget would have a negligible impact on town budgets.

Left unstated was the question of what such a steep drop in the student population means when housing starts are on the rise all over the southern Berkshires.

The imminent retirement of Rick Mielke as the Monterey representative to the School Committee, the opening of two new schools in Great Barrington, and general dissatisfaction with the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, as evinced by the high number of "choiced out" students, led to a discussion about Monterey's continued participation in this district.

Monterey has 106 school-age children, 42 attending schools in the district, 35 students "choiced out," 19 attending private or parochial schools, 2 going out of state, and 8 home schooled. Monterey children in the lower grades are likely to attend district schools, but middle and high school students tend to "choice out" to attend Monument Mountain. Once the new grammar and middle schools open in Great Barrington, it is presumed that fewer Monterey residents will continue in the Southern Berkshire Regional District.

Currently 978 students are enrolled in all grades in the school district. Sheffield provides 536, or almost 55 percent of the student body, leading to the inescapable conclusion that Sheffield's priorities are the ones that dominate the district. The 42 students from Monterey comprise only 4.3 percent of the school district, a figure not high enough to provide clout when necessary. Examples of Monterey's disadvantage include the difficulties for town students to participate in after-school activities due to bus transportation issues.

Members of both the Select Board and Finance Committee praised Rick Mielke for the superb job he has done as Monterey's representative to the School Committee. People interested in the job should indicate this to members of the Select Board. The consensus is that the representative should be someone with children attending public schools.

Procurement Process

Robert Lazzarini asked questions about the town procurement process, and was told that competitive bidding is required for capital expenditures. The procurement officer, Administrative Assistant Bonnie Tedder, is responsible for running the advertisements, and gathering the information. Select Board member Michele Miller pointed out that the town does not have a lot of major capital expenditures, and when it does, they are mostly for motor vehicles or road building. The Select Board opens the bids at publicly advertised meetings. The bids are read out loud, and then approved or disapproved. The Select Board has the discretion not to take the lowest bid.

Competitive bids are not required for consultants and professional work, although that approach has raised questions about individual departments hiring consultants without discussion with either the Select Board or the Finance Committee. Ross said that state suggestions for Finance Committee duties include the review of specifications of major purchases or other capital expenditures. The Select Board quickly accepted the Finance Committee's offer to be part of the review process for allocations over a certain amount.

Questions were raised about oversight of hiring consultants for large projects. Ross said that every department has a line item for consultants, but that perhaps there should be a review process for fees over a certain amount.

Pat Mielke suggested that the town use purchase orders rather than simply submitting a bill or asking the Town Accountant for the money. It was agreed that the town should create a purchase order form that includes who asked for the item, who signed off on it or approved it, when it was delivered, and when the bill was paid.

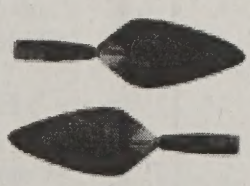
Town Treasurer's Report

Pat Mielke noted that there are four properties in tax title, and that the town has put a lien on these properties for unpaid taxes. In one year, the town can assume ownership of the properties or put them up for sale so that they can be returned to the tax rolls.

— Laurily K. Epstein

Since 1982

Landscape Design



Stonemasonry

www.montereymasonry.com

Gile Real Estate

Your Vacation Home Specialists in the Berkshires!

Conveniently located on Route 8

Beth VanNess
Broker/Owner

PO Box 114, Otis, Ma 01253

Office: (413) 623-5839

TOLL FREE
(866) 623-BETH (2384)

E-mail
Beth@GileRealEstate.com
www.GileRealEstate.com

Anne Makuc Retiring as Monterey Librarian

At the February 14th regular meeting of the Monterey Library Trustees, long-time Library Director Anne Marie Makuc announced her plans to retire as soon as a new director can be found, and no later than June 1, 2005. Anne has been the Library Director since 1978 and worked for several years before that as former Director Newton Abercrombie's assistant. She is also resigning as a Library Trustee, a position she has served in for more than forty years. The other Library Trustees and all of the community are most grateful to Anne for her many dedicated years of service to the town and for making the Monterey Library the gem that it is.

The Library Trustees are responsible for hiring and overseeing the Library Director and are currently accepting applications for the position. Advertisements will appear in area newspapers and shoppers' guides and in the Western Massachusetts Regional Library Association's newsletter and on its Internet sites. Because the population of Monterey is under 5,000, the Monterey Library Director does not have to have a library science degree, but he or she must have a baccalaureate degree, basic computer literacy, and good people skills, and must complete four training courses on library skills within three years to become certified by the commonwealth. The courses are available through the Western Massachusetts Region. The Director is responsible for managing all phases of library operation and reports to the Library Trustees. The position is part-time, requiring 18 hours per week, including Saturday and evening hours. Candidates for the position should send a letter of intent, a resumé, and names of 3 work-related references by March 31, 2005, to: Will Marsh, Chair, Monterey Library Trustees, PO Box 74, Monterey, MA 01245.

Republicans to Caucus March 5th

All registered Republicans in Monterey are invited to attend a caucus on Saturday, March 5th, at 1:30 p.m. in the Meetinghouse basement. The purpose of this caucus will be to select candidates to run for town offices in the May 7th town election. Candidates will be chosen for Board of Appeals, Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Cemetery Committee, Finance Committee, Library Trustees (3 positions), Moderator, Park Commission, Planning Board (3 positions), Select Board, and Tree Warden.

Democrats to Caucus March 5th

All registered Democrats in Monterey are invited to attend a caucus on Saturday, March 5th, at 10 a.m. in the Meetinghouse basement. The purpose of this caucus will be to select candidates to run for town offices in the May 7th town election. Candidates will be chosen for Board of Appeals, Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Cemetery Committee, Finance Committee, Library Trustees (3 positions), Moderator, Park Commission, Planning Board (3 positions), Select Board, and Tree Warden.

Our nominating committee will be offering candidates for these positions, and nominations from the floor will be accepted as well. Anyone nominated from the floor must either be present or have agreed to the candidacy in writing.

Our goal will be to endorse the strongest possible candidates to administer our town. With the broad participation of all Democrats we can achieve this goal. For more information call Muriel Lazzarini at 528-5796.

MONTEREY UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Service · 10 a.m.
in the Meeting House

Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor

For Information and Assistance:
528-5850

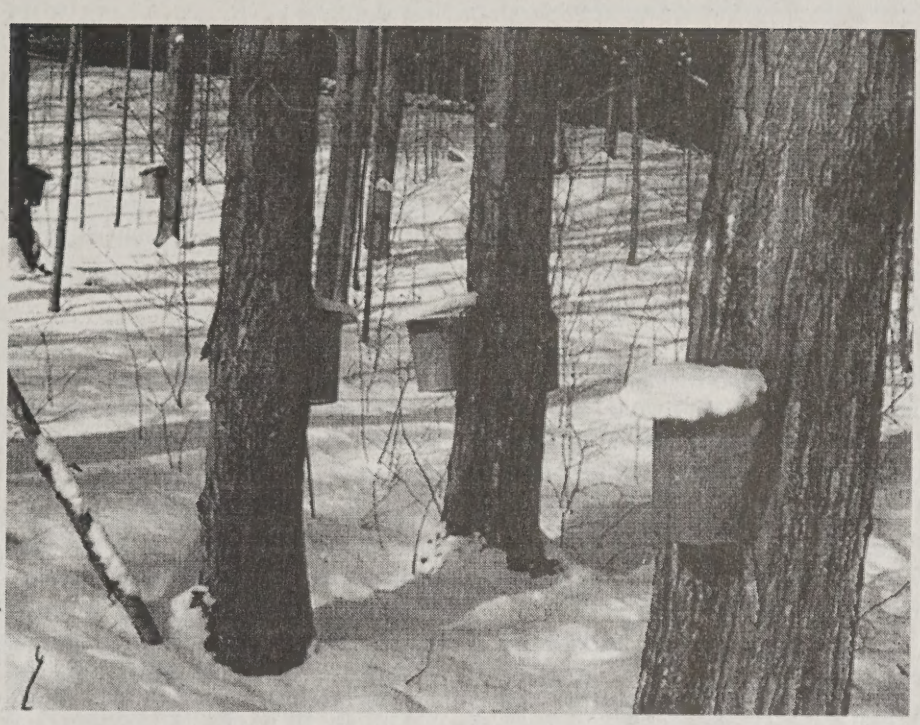
Roger Tryon
Landscape Contracting
Monterey, MA
413-528-4091

- Land Clearing
- Driveways and Repairs
- Site Work Design & Construction
- Title 5 Septic Services

Products for Sale

- Top Soil
- Compost for Flower Beds & Gardens
- Stone for Walls, Patios & Steps

Maple Sugaring Season at Gould Farm



Courtesy Gould Farm

Members of the Gould Farm Community have collected maple sap and created maple syrup for more than 90 years. During January, preparations are made both at the farm, where sap is collected in buckets, and in Tyringham, where the sap flows through tubing to a central collection container. Community members are busy collecting and boiling the sap during the months of February, March, and early April. The end results can be tasted at the farm's morning breakfast or at the Roadside Store, where maple syrup can also be purchased.

Bob Rausch has been involved with the maple sugaring for 27 years. He says that the soil at Gould Farm supports the thriving of sugar maples. Some of the oldest trees may be 200-300 years old, and some bear sweeter sap than others. Bob has found a very old grove in the forest of Gould Farm, where an arch (old boiling spot) and a tree with remains of an old rusty bucket are located.

When the farm first boiled sap, it was done near the brook where the sauna is now located. Longtime community member Roma Foreman would boil sap until 1 a.m. and then arise to fix breakfast at 6 a.m. In those days, the sap was boiled in a big pot. During the 1950s, a Quaker youth group built the sap house near the pond at Main House. A wood-fired evaporator has boiled the sap for many years, joined recently by an oil-fired evaporator.

The community hangs about 700 to 800 buckets on the trees at Gould Farm. Seven years ago the farm took over a sugar bush in Tyringham with almost 2,000 taps flowing into tubing. The end result is approximately 300 gallons of maple syrup.

Gould Farm invites everyone, and especially families to visit the maple syrup operation at the Sap House near the pond at Main House on March 2, 10 a.m.–12 noon. Please call Joanne at the farm to be sure the sap is running. (528-1804, ext. 10) and let us know you are coming. The Gould Farm community looks forward to seeing you.

ॐ

Application Deadline for "How's It Made?"

The Monterey Cultural Council is now accepting applications for the second "How's It Made?" show, Saturday, September 3, at the Firehouse Pavilion. Our first "How's It Made?" (2003) was a rousing success, and we are looking forward to another stimulating and successful day. Once again our focus will be on presenting a variety of arts and crafts by artists who like to show the public how they do what they do.

Application forms for this juried event can be picked up at the Town Offices, or from Joe Baker (413-528-5134 or joe@bakerworks.com). The application deadline is March 10, so don't delay.

Mad Scot

Small Engine Repair

Lawn Mowers
Tractors
Tillers
Chain Saws
Snowblowers

Many years' experience on all types of small engines.

Chains and blades sharpened.

Don Clawson
Box 26
Monterey 01245

Pickup and delivery.
Local service.
Reasonable rates.

(413) 528-3257

ROBERTS WOODS FARM

Icelandic Horses

Katherine Roberts
Breeder

P.O. Box 634 • 45 Art School Road
Monterey, MA 01245
413-528-6188 • Fax 413-528-6193
e-mail: rwfarm@vgernet.net

Gould Farm Benefit Gala

Gould Farm will host its Seventh Annual Benefit Gala Dinner Dance on Saturday evening, April 16, 2005, at Eastover Resort in Lenox. Sandisfield resident Steve Kahn is chair of the event. Committee members are Claudette Callahan from New Marlborough; Julie Colello, Budd Mann, Georgiana O'Connell, John Otenasek, Edie Ross, Cate Tower, Barbara Tryon, and Kyp Wasiuk from Monterey; Dale Drimmer from Mill River; Elizabeth Goodman and Judy Moss from Lenox; Betsey McKearnan from Stockbridge; Peggy Reeves from Great Barrington; Rita Kasky from Sandisfield; and Audrey Wilner from Mill River.

A live auction will be conducted by auctioneer Lou Caropresso, including, among other items, a two-passenger all-electric rechargeable cart manufactured by Global Electric Motor Cars, a stone carving made from a 250-year-old roof slate by highly regarded stone carver Karin Sprague, and an autumn weekend in a Greenwich Village apartment with two tickets to a Broadway show of choice. There will be a raffle drawing that includes seven nights in a Kauai, Hawaii condo, a golf package for four at Cranwell, a one-month family membership at Berkshire South Community Center, tickets to Barrington Stage, Jacob's Pillow, Berkshire Theatre Festival, and Shakespeare & Company, as well as dinners at fine local restaurants, gift baskets, and more. Tickets to the gala are by reservation only. The reception begins at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30. The auction will take place at about 8:40 and the raffle drawing at 9. Winners need not be present.

For more than ninety years Gould Farm has provided respectful treatment for adults with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, and other psychiatric diagnoses. The Farm has inspired and encouraged the development of similar programs across the country, yet remains unique in its ability to award scholarships to clients whose family's resources are limited. The Farm provided the equivalent of more than $1,300,000 in charitable care in each of the past two years.

The Farm site in Monterey and the transitional programs in the Boston area provide warm and comfortable environments where clients can learn to live and work with the often debilitating effects of their illnesses. Many have lost relationships and are disconnected from their natural environments. A balanced program of clinical support, meaningful work, and socialization helps clients regain their roles as valuable and productive members of society.

For more information about Gould Farm, to make a reservation for the gala, or to purchase raffle tickets, call Rita Kasky or Sandy Collins at 413-528-1804.

Come to the Hootenanny

We know you're out there. These hills are full of musicians playing music of all kinds, and here is the chance to get together for an old style song swap, a music fest, a jam session, a sing along, a ... well ... a hootenanny. On Friday, March 11th, the Monterey Cultural Council invites the public to a free music event at the Monterey Meetinghouse at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome, whether beginners, intermediates, pros, or perhaps someone who just wants to sing along or even just listen.

Musicians, this is a chance to make contacts with other musicians, to let that piece you've been working on see the light of day, maybe learn a new technique, or teach one to someone else. Mostly, it's a chance to just have fun for a few hours.

Warm up ahead of time at the Monterey General Store, which is staying open late that evening to offer wine and entertainment, and then walk across to the church for more music. If you have questions about how the event will take place, call the organizers, Joe Baker (528-5134) or Joel Schick (528-3128). In case of bad weather be sure to check the church answering machine for cancellation or postponement (528-5850). Refreshments will be served during the break.

MONTEREY

GENERAL STORE

Serving Monterey
for over 200 years

Take-Out Lunch & Dinner
Baked Goods, Pies, etc.

Route 23, Monterey
Phone 528-4437; FAX 528-2889
Web Site: montereystore.com
Open
Mon–Fri, 7:30–5:00
Sun, 8:00–noon

BER

Berkshire Estates Realty

Rita A. Backhaus, CBR®
Broker/Owner
Roger Belanger, Broker Associate

We Are A Full Service Agency.
Let Us Represent You In Your Next
Sale, Purchase, Or Rental.

Experience The Difference!!
Phone 413-528-5262 Fax 413-528-6272

Planning for Monterey Community Center Moves Ahead

Wednesday evening, February 16, the Monterey Select Board and the Wilson McLaughlin House Committee held an open informational meeting at the Town Offices. The room was full of folks asking questions and offering suggestions. There was positive input and enthusiasm for the proposed Community Center. We took note of all that was asked and presented and will address each question and suggestion at our next committee meeting.

In order for the project to move forward utilizing donations and grants rather than Town tax dollars, the committee has formed a nonprofit called Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House. At Town Meeting in May we will be asking that the town approve the leasing of the existing Wilson House to the Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House so that we can proceed with its restoration.

We will be having at least one more informational meeting toward the end of April, as yet to be scheduled, but please don't wait till then if you have questions or are available to help with this community undertaking. Call one of the committee members and note that our mailing address is PO Box 302, Monterey.

—Susan Sellew
Wilson McLaughlin House Committee

Sellew Painting

Interior

Exterior

Professional

Quality

Insured

John Sellew

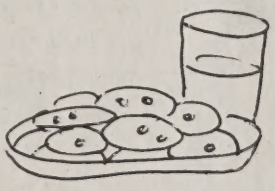
413.528.3722

To Japan & Back at March 9 Community Dinner

For the last few years, Monterey artist Leonard Weber has spent several months in Japan painting and learning about Japanese culture. On March 9th, he will speak at the Monterey community dinner about his experiences as an American artist in Japan and how that country has influenced his work. The potluck dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m., and Lenny will speak from 7:00 to around 8:00, with time for questions. Some of the watercolor works he did in Japan will be on display, as well as some traditional Japanese prints.

We thank Will Marsh, who organized the Monterey writers who read their work at last month's community dinner, and those who participated. There is possibly no more gracious audience than the loyal bunch that attends the community dinners, and they made the readers feel like Pulitzer Prize winners one and all.

Join us on March 9th in the community room of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring something to share for the potluck, a serving utensil, and a place setting for yourself. Don't forget to check the church answering machine in case of bad weather (528-5850) for cancellations and postponements. Everyone is welcome!



EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, March 27, 2005
at
1:00 p.m.

LIBRARY LAWN

for kids
10 years and under

Sponsored by
Monterey Coffee Club

Pick Up Those Daffodils!

The Daffodil Drive for Cancer was a great success. We all know someone who has had to struggle with the disease. Our support helps to find a cure as well as brightens our lives with the flowers.

A special thanks to Kenn Basler at The Monterey General Store for advertising and storing the daffodils for delivery. Also, thank you to Cynthia Weber for delivery to the elderly, donated by Kenn, and to all the volunteers who made phone calls on behalf of the drive.

REMEMBER—March 23rd is the date set to pick up your daffodils at the General Store.

— Pat Mielke

Serving Monterey for over 20 years Call Jay 528-5099

JAY AMIDON PAINTING

Clean, Orderly, and Accommodating
Staining · Painting · Interior · Exterior · Old & New

The Three Sisters: Dingle

I am over by the Three Sisters:
the standing stones by Clogher Strand
pretending, mind you, to be blind
not to be seeing the dun cows grazing
or the German tourists I have met
now swimming in the cold green waters below

I close my eyes to let the thunder in
I put out my hands:
blind is touch
touch is hard
hard is time here
freckled by rain
my fingers could bleed
but for kinship:
we have stood
waited here
before —
we will stand
waiting here
after
the swelling of the flesh
and the spoken promise
perish —
only love made at the bone
and raised in stone
endures
we are wheeling
whiddershins to what is mortal
scarring the sky itself
hour by hour now
with your petition

the father, the mother, the flaxen Saxon maid
their hair flat bronze
come out of the waves and climb peacefully
to their pale Volkswagen bus
laughing and shaking the water out of their ears —
they wave to me and dry themselves
with heraldic towels
but the Three Sisters have witnessed
blood under the beachtowels: Viking, Irish crimson sands —
better to wish
upon us blind
before grief
or after joy

press the torque thus, they tell me
hard on the neck of the god
for visions of a different radiance!

I did not go down to the empty emerald
of Clogher Strand
but left believing this
under the heavy udders of the clouds
history will milk.

— A. O. Howell

Coming out from the Cave on Seeing Her Shadow Yogini Bottom Ups

down in "the dog" flexibly
she said "blossom your butt!"
ass ascending the still
naked trees, waiting womb
sun longer on the snow
dripping salutations
hope's in the hands stretching
straight to the burgeoning
beds of inspiration
instead of fearing death
plant and sow, sow again
tending 'til, blossom up
lily and the lotus
prevail prevail prevail

— R. Zukowski
(dedicated to all yogis and yoginis and ass-pirants of the beautiful way)

St. Valentine over the Hill

regaled in sunshine
and hoar frost
Saint Valentine came
over the hill
this morning
just in time
to see the snow fly
roses and violets
still a distant dream
or memory
yet love elusive mysterious
omnipresent

— R. Zukowski

If You Ain't Got Chickens, What Ain't You Got?

The obvious answer is eggs. You ain't got homemade eggs for the table. When chickens first start to lay, these eggs are the sweetest little things! Thirty years ago; when our first four hens began to lay, we fell in love with pullet eggs and could hardly bear to crack them into the pan. If there is a perfect shape, feel, weight, color, and promise, it is the egg. In biology class we learned that the egg is the biggest cell. Look what an egg can do: if there has been a rooster, an egg can be warmed and turned for twenty-one days and a little chick can be expected. The expectation carried in an egg is what some folks consider the greatest miracle in the world.

I won't even get started on egg recipes because everyone knows about these. But if you've had chickens on the place you will know what I mean when I say "fresh egg." I will mention the frying pan. A fresh egg in the frying pan spreads out just the right amount, nothing runny about it, and the yolk stands up on its own. Ours have always been a particularly rich shade of orange, never what you'd call yellow. When you see this color and recall all the mornings you have carried the chicken bucket out to the hen-house, the "chicken treats," you feel those carefully saved and hand-delivered scraps are coming back to you, with blessings.

If you have lost your chickens, you have not only lost the promise of home-place eggs, you've lost the blessing of the chicken bucket, the transformation of butternut squash peels and apple cores into egg yolks standing proud. And every time you shake the sink drain basket into the chicken bucket, those bits of oatmeal and odd grains of rice have a place in the world, someplace they are headed in the cycle of life on the homestead that has chickens.

Now I'll get off the subject of eggs and eating because this is only the most obvious payola end of life with chickens. It's the one you'd latch onto first if you'd never lived with chickens.

For thirty years we have lived with chickens here on East Hupi Road. We moved here from Wyoming in the early 1970s in the midst of the "back-to-the-land" movement. At the time we did not feel part of a movement. We felt we were choosing life in the woods, sewing a tipi, looking for straight poles, picking a garden site. When it was time for livestock, we chose chickens.

I think chickens must be the novice homesteader's best introduction to animal husbandry. Obviously they are creatures of beauty: every feather is a wonder. We used to take a break at lunchtime and sit around in the driveway watching our first four chickens. They interact: with each other, with worms and beetles, even with people. They also have language. Our rooster would find a nice worm, carry it to an open place, toss it out on the ground, and then call the hens. "Guck! Guck! Guck!" How they would hustle over, and how gallantly he would back off. One quick hen would grab the worm and take off, the others in pursuit. The rooster kept his distance, his job done, and let the hens sort it out. Then they'd all go back to foraging and if he found something yummy, he'd call and deliver, again. Obviously, his role as provider was his strongest drive. He could eat later.

Another great attribute of chickens is their size. If they step on you they will not break your foot. If one gets sick you can easily put it in a box in the kitchen and take care of it. As regards housing, you do not need a big loan and a lot of real estate to take good care of chickens.

We built our chickens a little doghouse made of scrap lumber from the dump, back when a trip to the dump usually resulted in more gain than loss. This was when we lived in our tipi. The chickens had the run of the woods all day, but at night we shut up their little house to keep out skunks. Sometimes a skunk would get in there in the daytime and nose under the hens to grab an egg. They didn't like this any more than they liked us taking their eggs— but they didn't seem to like it any less, either. That is, a skunk did not put them in a panic.

When winter came we moved into a small shed and fixed up a chicken place right underneath us. We entered a happy period of living upstairs from chickens. At night we could hear them settling in and some would make the sweetest trilling and churring sounds as they got comfortable on the roost poles. They went to bed before we did and if we got too noisy and woke them up, the rooster would crow, just as if

One call can have you covered for most of your home & property needs.

- *Landscape design, mowing, gardening, land clearing, "fall clean up," property management*
- *Light carpentry, repairs, window and door installation, decks installed*
- *Tractor work, gravel driveway repair, tree work*
- *digital picture updates via email*

MillKey Hardwoods Inc.
www.millkey.com
MA Home Improvement
Contractor Lic #143903
Fully insured with Liability and
Workman's Comp Insurance

phone: 413-644-8926
email: millkey@bcn.net

WILLIAM BROCKMAN
REAL ESTATE
Fiddletop
11 Wellman Road • Monterey • Massachusetts 01245
413/528-4859 413/528-9100 FAX
www.berkshiresforsale.com
NEW YORK • MASSACHUSETTS • CONNECTICUT

it were morning. Drop a frying pan on the floor while washing up after dark? Cock-a-doodle-doo! from downstairs.

After a while our livestock situation expanded to include milk goats. We put them under the shed, with the chickens, which complicated the downstairs picture, especially at mealtimes. The goats wanted to gobble up the chickens' breakfast, and the chickens wanted to lay their eggs in the manger where the goats' breakfast was. Goats don't eat eggs, but they yank out their hay in a way that few eggs can survive intact. We fine-tuned the chicken feeder so goats couldn't get their little noses into it, but then the chickens had a struggle getting their heads in and wound up with bruised combs and wattles.

We built a splendid new chicken house, just for chickens, no goats allowed. Over the years we have kept many hens and roosters in this chicken house. We have witnessed some tragedies, some births, some social complications. Originally designed to hold thirty hens, our chicken house has been a regular McMansion for the five or six old-timers that have inhabited it in recent years. With thirty hens you have a lot more eggs than you can eat and you find yourself in business. Grain bills are serious, marketing matters. There are price considerations: you don't want bad blood with your egg-selling neighbors in town, so you don't want to undersell them. On the other hand, it can look as if they have no such scruples about underselling you! You save eggs for people who don't come by to pick them up. The eggs get a little old, and you eat a lot of omelettes. A raccoon hits the henhouse and the daily egg collection drops. You can feel relieved about this and let the population experience a natural decline.

Here on our homestead, the natural decline finished one recent morning. In that week we lost our two old hens to a weasel, and now for the first time in all these years we are without chickens. This is a sobering thing. The chicken bucket still stands on the kitchen counter next to the compost bucket. For thirty years we have sorted our scraps: no coffee grounds for chickens. Chickens do not like onion peels. Don't put the apple saucings in the compost bucket! Chickens love apple saucings.

And now, for several days, there has been no point in knowing what chickens like and don't like. That expertise, that special knowledge based on years of observation, has become meaningless. It feels so clumsy, so thoughtless, but the truth is, everything can go in one bucket, now.

Can you remember when we sorted glass for recycling: brown glass, green glass, clear? Now we don't even have to keep the glass separate from the cans, don't have to get the paper labels off either. What becomes of special knowledge, careful habits, ways of fitting in that no longer apply? Do these things pile up somewhere like chicken scraps on a farm that no longer has chickens? Or do they just vanish like words that have been written and then hit with "delete"?

For us it is either delete or get more chickens, simple as that. Like the rooster with his prize, I want my chicken expertise to mean something. Right now I want to put the peels in the bucket on the left and feel myself going "Guck! Guck! Guck!" There's a big hole where my chickens used to be. It's not just the eggs: I have lost my moorings because I ain't got chickens.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Master Lic. No. 15186 A
Fully Insured
Phone & Fax 413-528-5444

ANDRUS POWER SOLUTIONS

MAIN ROAD
MONTEREY, MA 01245

Generators & Alternative Energy
Phone & Cable TV
Residential & Commercial Wiring

Peter S. Vallianos
Attorney at Law
528-0055

General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions, landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

***

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

Selection of Recent Arrivals at the Monterey Library

Below is a list of some of the new titles received recently at the Monterey Library. There are many others—check them out!

Adult Fiction

Michael Crichton, *State of Fear*
Clive Cussler, *Black Wind*
Nelson Demille, *Night Fall*
Lisa Gardner, *Alone*
Philip Gregory, *The Virgin's Lover*
John Grisham, *The Broker*
Reginald Hill, *Good Morning Midnight*
Tony Hillerman, *Skeleton Man*
Dean Koontz, *Black Wind*
Larry McMurtry, *Loop Group: A Novel*
James Patterson, *London Bridges*
Danielle Steel, *Echoes*

Adult Nonfiction

American Medical Association, *American Medical Association Family Medical Guide*
Lilian J. Braun, *Cat Who Went Bananas*
Nina Campbell, *Nina Campbell's Decorating Notebook*
Joe Castiglione, *Broadcast Rites and Sites: I Saw it on the Radio with the Boston Red Sox*
Gary Clancy, *Whitetail Deer*
David Crystal, *The Stories of English*
Lucas Delattre, *A Spy at the Heart of the Third Reich*
Jim Dwyer and Kevin Flynn, *102 Minutes: The Untold Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers*
Mark Frost, *The Greatest Game Ever Played: Harry Vardon, Francis Ouimet, and the Birth of Modern Golf*
James Hamilton, *Life of Discovery: Michael Faraday*
Max Hastings, *Armageddon: The Battle for Germany, 1944–1945*
Ann Hulbert, *Raising America: Experts, Parents, and a Century of Advice about Children*
Donald Justice, *Collected Poems*
John Keegan, *The Iraq War*
Nelson Mandela, *In His Own Words*
Stewart O'Nan, *Faithful: 2 Diehard Boston Red Sox Fans Chronicle the Historic 2004 Season*
George Plimpton, *The Man in the Flying Lawn Chair*
Jack Weatherford, *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*

Children, Young Adult

Joan Aiken, *The Witch of Clatteringshaws*
Deborah Hopkinson, *Apples to Oregon*
Stephen Krensky, *Davy Crockett, A Life on the Frontier*
Peter McCarty, *T is for Terrible*
Patricia Polacco, *Orange for Frankie*
Laurance Pringle, *Snakes: Strange and Wonderful*
Rachael Ray, *Cooking Rocks: Rachael Ray's 30-Minute Meals for Kids*
Cynthia Rylant, *If You'll Be My Valentine*
Gloria Whalen, *Friend on Freedom River*
Jeanette Winter, *The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq*

Kids' Baseball in Monterey

Baseball will be offered for players 5 through 12 years old at Greene Park in Monterey starting in mid to late April. Players are usually grouped by ages 5–7, 8–10, and 11–12; however, some variations are made depending on the situation. Ages 5-6-7 is primarily basic skill instruction for one hour late Wednesday afternoons. The upper age groups will have practices and games. Some games will be within our program and some games will be played with teams from other programs. All players are not required to attend all practices or all games. While we have many highly skilled players, our first focus is on fun.

This baseball league is open to all children who live in South Berkshire County. More information will be in the April issue of the *Monterey News*. Also, people may contact program coordinator Jim Edelman at 413-528-0006 or e-mail cljvedelman@aol.com.

CHARLES J. FERRIS
Attorney at Law

500 Main St. Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
617 Main Rd. PO Box 63
Monterey, MA 01245

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE
IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK

Free Consultation
on any Legal Matter

Evening and Weekend
Appointments Available

PHONE (413) 528-8900
FAX (413) 528-9132

The Roadside Store & Cafe

Owned and operated by the Gould Farm Community

On Route 23
in Monterey, Massachusetts

Open from 7:30 am - 2:30 pm
closed Wed.

Breakfast and lunch served all day, made with Farm-grown ingredients. Call 528-2633 for daily specials.

The Mourning Dove

This bird may roost in a pine
Waiting for a spring morn
Curtains of rain-washed clouds
Lifting at the window of dawn.

All winter long, mourning doves (*Zenaida macroura*) have been a familiar and friendly sign of life in a bleak landscape. Often during the day they keep a low profile in sheltered woods. In the thick groves of white pines that tower over Bidwell Road in Monterey, a dove is often the first bird to be seen at sunrise.

A dove at first light
Darts across the sky
As the Ides Of March
Will move fleeting by.

There are biblical roots for the sign of the dove as a messenger of peace and hope going back to readings of the Old Testament when we were children in Sunday School. We heard that doves were released from Noah's Ark surrounded by an endless sea of floodwaters. One came back with an olive branch in its bill, proof that the waters were receeding. Today the doves released at the Olympic Games are white, even more symbolic of peace and hope.

"The Sign of the Dove" has also been imprinted in our minds as reproduced in logos showing a dove with an olive branch. In New York City one of the best and most sophisticated restaurants was so named. More recently the Big Apple made bird headlines when a pair of red-tailed hawks were allowed to rebuild their nest on the cornice of an apartment building, not far away. The National Audubon Society world headquarters are also located in New York City, which may explain why the hawks got such a good press, even though they feed mainly on pigeons.

According to Jeffrey Folmer, a Sandisfield resident, and Director of The Audubon Birdathon, an annual national fundraising and educational event, there are some sixty million members who find birds among their greatest interests. I would have to believe the membership would be fundamentaly divided between hawks And doves when it comes to killing pigeons.

The mourning dove is itself considered a game bird in the South and Southwes of the United States, which of course has an eagle for its national bird and also on its one dollar bill. According to Birds Of North America, a publication of the Smithsonian Institution, the dove is harvested legally in thirty-one states in annual numbers exceeding thirty million birds. For such a small bird, this seems excessive and recalls the image of the passenger pigeon, so abundant that the sky would darken when flocks appeared, and now extinct.

The mourning dove, like its cousins the rock dove or common pigeon, may reproduce two or three broods per year, even though there are normally only two eggs in a nest. When males are courting their mates, they strut about, bow to their prospective bride, and bill and coo. This bucolic sound that echoes like "Coo, Coo, Coo, Cooah" is somewhat mournful, from which the bird gets its name. But for us at this station of the zodiac here in Monterey, where the dove is protected by law, it is an audible sign of seasonal rebirth.

— George Emmons

MONTEREY MAPLE
528-9385

made by Joe Baker & Bonner McAllester
Hupi Road Monterey Mass.

Monterey Lights the Way
Support clean, renewable electricity
GreenerWatts New England
From generation to generation...For our community and Earth
CET
Sign up
1-800-238-1221 www.cetonline.org
www.GreenerWattsNewEngland.com

Documentary Film Explores End of Suburbia

As part of a series of documentaries at the Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington, the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) has arranged for a one-time showing of the new documentary, *The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream,* on Tuesday, March 15, at 6 p.m. Admission is $6 per person. A discussion will follow the end of the documentary.

With brutal honesty and a touch of irony, The End of Suburbia explores the "American way of life" and its prospects as global demand for oil begins to outstrip supply. Sociologists and historians examine the evolution of American society since World War I, when it was assumed that fossil fuels would be everlasting and always inexpensive. The film documents how fossil fuels have come to permeate our lives. Scientists argue that world oil peak and the inevitable decline of fossil fuels are upon us. Leading geologists, economists, and policy analysts share potential devastating impacts on the fabric of America as oil supplies diminish and discuss what can be done individually and collectively to avert crisis and solve this problem.

This documentary has been an official selection at numerous film festivals in the United States and Canada, including the Great Lakes Film Festival in Erie, Pennsylvania, the Silver Lake Film Festival in Los Angeles, Toronto's Planet in Focus Film Festival, the Global Vision Film Festival in Edmonton, Alberta, and the Vermont International Film Festival.

This Canadian film is narrated by Barrie Zwicker and features James Howard Kunstler, Richard Heinberg, Peter Calthorpe, Michael Klare, Matthew Simmons, Michael C. Ruppert, Julian Darley, Colin Campbell, Kenneth Deffeyes, Ali Samsam Bakhtiari, and Steve Andrews. The film is directed by Gregory Greene and produced by Barry Silverthorn. Its run time is 78 minutes.

Established in 1976, CET, a non-profit organization, provides residents, businesses and communities with the tools to make it easy and affordable to carry out our daily lives in a more environmentally sound manner. CET's work focuses on energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste management, and environmental education. CET offers a green electricity product, GreenerWatts New England to residential and small business customers of Massachusetts Electric Company.

— Ruth Dinerman, CET

P.O. Box 9, 01245

Concerns about Fairview Road

To the Editor:

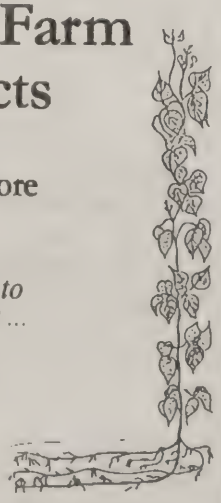
I am writing to express my opposition to the direction the town seems to be taking to fix Fairview Road, and that is to hard-surface it.

First I would like to state that it has been on Maynard Forbes' agenda for two years to accomplish this and he is getting very close. I was waiting for the engineer's design report and was told that engineer-

Gould Farm Products
at the
Roadside Store

You come to our tables ... take us to yours!

Call Mary 644-9718
Gift baskets available



PRECISION AUTOCRAFT, INC.
high quality collision repair

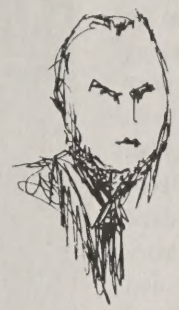
When you do business in a small town like Monterey for over twenty years, it leads to a certain way of dealing with people, one far removed from the assembly line atmosphere so prevalant in the automobile industry today. Even though we moved from Monterey to Rt. 7 on the Great Barrington/Sheffield line several years ago, we have never changed our way of treating customers ... right down to giving you a ride home when you bring your car in, or dropping it off when it's done. We still offer the same warranty we've always given; all our paint and collision work is guaranteed for as long as you own your vehicle—no long list of criteria to meet.

Serving the tri-state Berkshires since 1978.
1939 North Main St., Sheffield, MA 01257
(413) 528-1457, or out of town call 1-800-734-1457

ing for a gravel road design wasn't even considered. Were any of you aware at the time you voted for this $14,000 engineer's report that a gravel engineering portion was not included? Many of you may have assumed, as I did without a question, that all studies would focus first on keeping this scenic dirt road as it is, without resorting to blacktopping.

But you did not know the agenda of the Highway Department. Maynard told me that he was told that no trees could be cut to fix the road, so he instructed the engineer not to design for a gravel road, as this would require some cutting. But I am of the opinion that the townspeople might trade the removal of some trees for being able to keep a gravel road. Some trees are already leaning heavily into the road and have weakened root structures and will need to be removed anyway.

What is more upsetting is that it wasn't until this January that Maynard requested permission from the Monterey Land Trust to dump the water from the steep hill on Fairview Road onto Land Trust land. Of course, we granted permission to assist in solving the problem. The land is not to be developed so it is well suited to this purpose. This land lies directly across the street from Montgomery's upper driveway and its natural elevation is already lower than Fairview Road. The Highway Department, working the roads daily, let water from both sides of the road wash out from this point down to Route 23 for two years. The question most asked about how to fix the road was, Where can we get rid of the water? I believe that this solution was overlooked to make the road look bad and convince people that hard-topping the road was the only solution.



My observation of Fairview Road is that, after a rain, the roadbed we drive on is sometimes perfect. If the rains are very hard, the ditches wash and eat into the middle of the road. So it would seem to me that if this water were piped underground, which is commonly done when we rebuild our roads, then we could keep a gravel surface. I am assuming that underground drainage will be necessary to fix the road, regardless of which surface we choose. This assumption could be verified (or refuted) by an engineer's report.

To resolve this issue, the Select Board needs to reassert its authority over the Highway Department. They are Maynard's bosses and Maynard works for us, the townspeople. The Select Board then could appoint a Roads and Machinery Committee, which the town has had in the past, to help with making decisions. Monterey Highway will not like this committee looking over their shoulder but it's obviously necessary and has worked well before. The committee could visit other towns that have had similar problems and find out how they kept their roads dirt.

There are many reasons for keeping our gravel roads. They are inexpensive to maintain compared to blacktop. Our road grader depreciates only about $10,000 per year. Gravel roads keep the speed down. People can use them for recreation. They are scenic. They require 1/10 the amount of road salt for some reason not known. Their snow-packed sanded surfaces must be judged from a liability standpoint differently than blacktopped roads. Ease of maintenance for the Highway Department should certainly not be our only consideration in this matter.

In closing, please lend your support in stopping this road project and let's bring this discussion back to a sensible start. I may have offended some people with this letter, but the issue has already become politically charged, and I'm answering the only way I know I can. I'm not going to let them take away our dirt roads unnecessarily without a fight.

— Roger Tryon,
Monterey Tree Warden

BENCHMARK REAL ESTATE

Serving the Southern Berkshires, with special attention to Vacation Home Properties, for over two decades.

Nancy K. Kalodner
ABR, CRS, GRI
Past Massachusetts State REALTOR® of the Year

Listing & Selling
Berkshire Properties 7 Days A Week

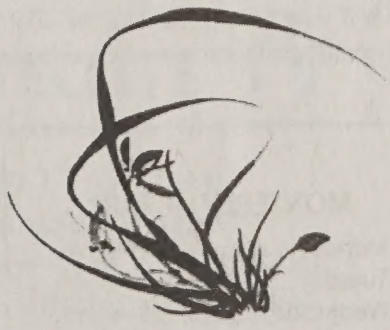
For Personal, Professional Real Estate Services Call

MONTEREY Tel: 413-528-9595 • OTIS Tel. 413-269-4089

E-Mail: BENCHMK@VGERNET.NET

Orchid Blossom Healing Arts

Traditional acupuncture and Zen Shiatsu: Cultivating wellness for the whole family



Lauren Paul, L.Ac.
for an appointment call
413.258.4296

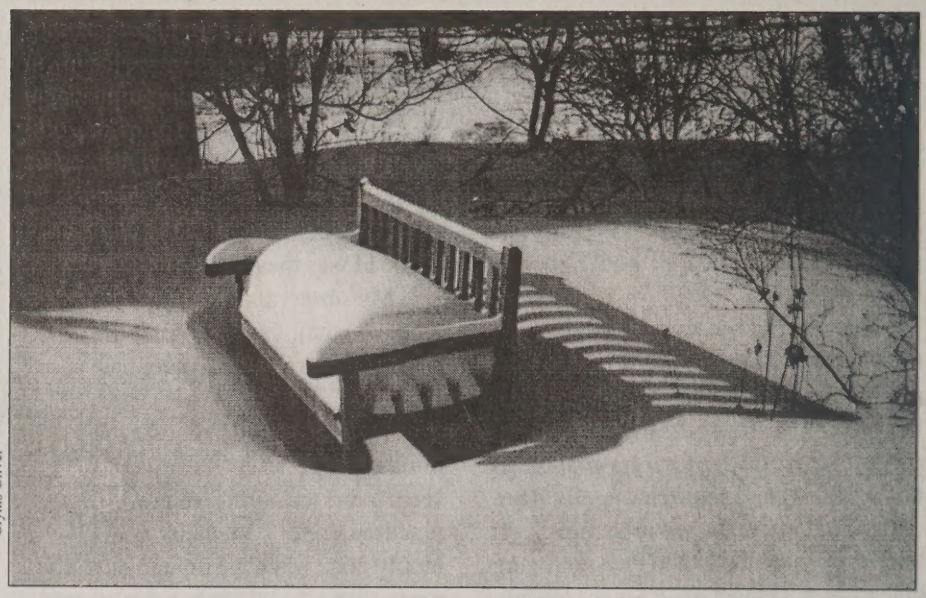
Sandisfield Historical Society News

We are still looking for roofers to repair the existing cedar shake roof. If you know a reliable roofer who would give us an estimate, please call me at 258-4786. Dale Loucks of Otis received the plans for the building extension and will be asking Herrington's Lumber to give us an estimate of the cost of the materials.

I collaborated with Claudette Callahan from Gould Farm in January about the Massachusetts Heritage Grant, and she has sent out the paperwork for the February 15th preliminary deadline. The application will be reviewed by the commission and we will have an opportunity to modify it before a final decision is made.

The Historical Society has set the dates for all of the events for 2005. We will be sponsoring a dance with country and western music on May 14. We are combining the Annual Tag Sale and August Fair, which will be held at the VFW fairgrounds on August 12. We all agreed that Route 8 is a better location than the Route 183 meeting house location for such a fair. We will continue to sponsor the Apple Fest, to be held on October 1, the Wine and Cheese Party on November 6, and the Holiday Fair on December 3.

We talked about having a special event related to the 1955 flood. Roberta Myers has a video of this disaster. The plan is to show the video along with having individuals relate their experiences associated with that flood. This is the fiftieth anniversary of the flood and there are still many residents in town who remember that time. If your life was affected by the flood and/or if your have pictures of the flood and would like to share your experience with us, please call 258-4786. We will be setting up a program coordinator for this event and the actual date and time should appear in the next issue.



Glynis Oliver

Our calendar is quite intense with all of the diversified activities designed to be local community social events for children, adults, and seniors. Please mark your calendar with the dates of these events and look for more details in later issues.

Our next meeting will be held on March 12, 2005, at 11 a.m. in the SHS Meeting House. All are invited to join us for a potluck lunch. Call 258-4786 for further details.

—Josephine Freedman

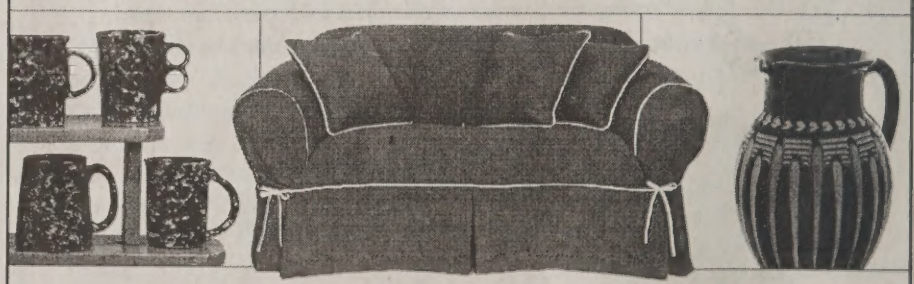
Burning Permits

Burning season runs from January 15 through April 30. To get a burn permit, call 528-1734, press the pound key (#) and number 2, and leave your name, address of where you intend to burn, and a phone number. You must call on the day you want to burn. We do not issue permits ahead of time. This call is your permit. You cannot burn leaves, building materials, tires, or building debris. All fires must be out by 4:00 p.m. Someone must tend the fire at all times while it is burning. The fine for burning without a permit, is $500, plus the cost of putting out the fire.

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday	7–9 p.m.
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.–noon
Wednesday	3–5 p.m.
Saturday	9:30 a.m.–noon
	7–9 p.m.

Slipcovers, sheets, pottery and more!



Bennington pottery • table linens • futon covers
chairpads • duvet covers • rugs • stretch slipcovers
custom cushion covers • **Call for your FREE slipcover catalog!**

BERKSHIRE SLIPCOVER OUTLET

K-Mart Plaza
Route 7, Gt. Barrington, MA
Open 7 Days! (413) 528-9737
www.berkshireslipcoveroutlet.com

Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.–noon, Town Offices.

Wednesday, March 2: Visit the Sap House at Gould Farm, 10 a.m.–12 noon. See p. 7.

Saturday, March 5:

Democratic Caucus at 10 a.m. in the Meetinghouse basement. See p. 6.

Republican Caucus at 1:30 p.m. in the Meetinghouse basement. See p. 6.

Wednesday, March 9: Community Potluck Supper, 6 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. Travel to Japan this month with Leonard Weber. Potluck at 6 p.m., talk at 7 p.m. See p. 9.

Thursday, March 10: Application deadline for "How's It Made." See p. 7.

Friday, March 11: Hootenanny! The Monterey Cultural Council invites you to this free musical event at the Monterey Meetinghouse at 7:30 p.m. See p. 8 for details.

Thursday, March 10: Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Tuesday, March 15: Documentary film at the Triplex Cinema, *The End of Suburbia,* at 6 p.m. See p. 16.

Sunday, March 20: First day of spring. Hooray!

Wednesday, March 23: Remember to pick up your daffodils at the General Store.

Sunday, March 27: Easter Sunday. Easter Egg Hunt at 1 p.m. on the Library lawn sponsored by Monterey Coffee Club. See p. 9.

Friday, March 25: Full Moon.

Saturday, March 26: Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Ralph Sweet. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Adults $6, children $3. Information 528-9385.

Personal Notes
A New Arrival in Town

Congratulations to Mari and Stephen Enoch on the birth of their son, Joseph Henry, at 8 p.m. on Sunday, February 20. Proud grandparents are Anne Marie Makuc of Monterey, and Albert and Linda Enoch of Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania.

The Observer
January 26–February 25

High temp. (2/8)	53°
Low temp. (1/29)	-13°
Avg. high temp.	33.6°
Avg. low temp.	11.8°
Avg. temp.	22.7°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	2.76"
Snowfall	22.4"
Total snowfall for season	77.5"

Precipitation occurred on 16 days.

Saturday, April 16: Make your reservations now for the Gould Farm Benefit Gala at Eastover Resort in Lenox. See article p. 8.

Century 21

Franklin Street Associates, Inc.

Dagmar Kubes
Realtor®

Assisting you with selling or renting your home, as well as locating a new home or land.

Call for a Free Market Analysis.

Monterey: 413 528-6485
Gr.Barrington:
413 528-8118, Vext. # 18
E-mail: dagmarrealty@taconic.net

Christopher Blair
DESIGN AND PLANNING
Residential Design
Kitchen/Bath Design
Construction Management
Project Representation
413.528.4960 32 Mahaiwe Street, Great Barrington, MA

MUNSON SATELLITE TV
38 West Hubbard Rd. • Sandisfield, MA 01255

DIRECTV SYSTEMS
STANDARD SATELLITE
TV ANTENNA • CABLE TV SYSTEMS
COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL WIRING
Fully Insured
Call or Fax: George Munson
(413) 258-4887

CORASHIRE REALTY

Serving the Southern Berkshires since 1966

Nancy Dinan
Broker
413-528-0014

Deborah D. Mielke
Broker
413-528-1871

Fax 413-528-4809
corashire@aol.com

Rick Mielke

Seasonal Caretaking
Professional Year-Round Maintenance of Your House and Grounds

Celebrating our 30th year in business

528-0864
We Return Your Calls
Since 1975 • Fully Equipped • Fully Insured
P. O. Box 211, Monterey, MA 01245

Editor..... Will Marsh
Asst. Editor ..... Glynis Oliver
Reporters.....Laurily Epstein
..... George Emmons
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Business Manager..... Barbara Tryon
Treasurer ..... Mari Enoch

Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (e-mail or computer disk if possible) by the 20th of the month before publication, addressed to the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail (free) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit a computer formatted ad with graphics. Address request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montnews@localnet.com.

MONTEREY NEWS
PO Box 9
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MONTEREY, MA 01245

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Monterey, MA
Permit # 2

Copyright © Monterey News 2005
No portion of the *Monterey News* may be reproduced without permission.

Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, pp. 16,17, 19; George Emmons, p. 15; Bonner McAllester, p. 13; Glynis Oliver, pp. 6, 9, 11.

BIZEN
備前
Freshest Sushi Quality Fish • Organic Vegetables
Japanese Estate Sakes • Unfiltered Dessert Sakes
On the Cutting Edge
"Where to Eat Sushi" in the Berkshires.
The New York Times
Gourmet Japanese Cuisine & Sushi Bar
17 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, Mass.
413-528-4343
Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00-2:30; Sat. & Sun. 12-3:00 • Dinner 7 Days 5-10